



Bureau of Air Quality Education and Outreach Section

The goal of the Education and Outreach Section is to provide information, educational programs and assistance to segments of the public to enhance their air quality awareness that promotes quality of life in South Carolina. A list of some programs that may assist in your outreach efforts is provided. Please contact the Education and Outreach Section staff for consultation regarding the implementation of these programs into your Early Action Plan. Please visit our Bureau's website, indicated below for some of the resource materials available through our Education and Outreach Section.

Programs available for Education and Outreach

Ozone Action Class (OAC)- An interactive program that focuses on how to reduce ground-level ozone forming air pollution through the outreach efforts of local schools. The teachers supply the guidance while the students do the work. An OAC Administrator will visit your school to inform the faculty and staff about the program and offer assistance through the duration of the school's project. The program is on DHEC's website at www.scdhec.net/baq. Click on "Student/Teacher Resources."

Action for a Cleaner Tomorrow- A supplemental teaching guide that focuses on environmental lessons that are correlated to the science, math, social studies, and language arts standards. Teachers may attend workshops on how to use the curriculum guide and receive a CD Rom to use in the classroom. The air lessons include a wide variety of subjects such as properties of air, how air is used, airborne pollutants, effects of weather on air pollution, ground-level ozone, and measuring air quality.

A Competition for Cleaner Air- An interactive website designed for students to encourage daily behavior changes that will help reduce ground-level ozone forming air pollution. The program is set up as a competition between two teams with the teachers as the coaches and the students as the players. Each activity is assigned accumulative points throughout the duration of the competition. There is a winner at the completion of the competition, but everyone who participates is an environmental steward.

Take a Break From the Exhaust – An interactive alternative commute program. Employees are asked (it is voluntary) to take action steps to help reduce ground-level ozone forming air pollution. Points are assigned for each activity and there is a measurable component to this program. Some examples of these action steps are: carpooling to work, staying in for lunch on ozone action days, working an alternate work schedule, and telecommuting. Action steps are aimed at reducing vehicle miles traveled by staff during the workweek.

Educational Community Events – Several community events have been held to promote air pollution awareness and to present air pollution solutions for the public. Some of the events include: Ozone Action Class awards to recognize schools for their community outreach efforts, Pee Dee ozone awareness meeting involving different government officials and the media, participation in the Kid's Day activities in the North Augusta and Columbia areas of the state, and a gas can exchange in the Upstate/ Greenville area.

Ground-level Ozone Forecast – To coincide with ground-level ozone season, forecasting for ground-level ozone is May 1st through September 30th. Four areas in South Carolina receive Air Quality Index readings, along with corresponding color codes. Cautionary statements, or health advisories, are issued daily. The ground-level ozone reading is posted on DHEC's website at www.scdhec.net/baq. The website offers the public an opportunity to receive the forecast by e-mail.

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